entrepreneur has been granted provisional SSI registration for IMFL blending and bottling.

(c) Yarn texturising and plalstic industries are not required to obtain excise licence from the Administration. One application for excise licence under Dadra and Nagar Haveli Excise Duty Rules, 1969 for IMFL blending and bottling is being processed by the Excise Department.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में नमक का उत्पादन

8218. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह** : क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने हिमाचल प्रदेश के मंडी जिले में द्रंग नामक स्थान पर खनिज नमक (रॉक साल्ट) का घोल तयार करके एक नई तकनीक द्वारा शुद्ध नमक तैयार करने का काम शुरू किया हुआ है; और

(ख) यदि हां तो यह काम कब शुरू किया गया था और इस कार्य की अद्यतन स्थिति क्या है ?

उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कृष्णा साही) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Conditions imposed on foreign tobacco companies in India

8219. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made it a prerequisite for foreign tobacco companies to lift adequate Indian tobacco for permission to operate in India;

(b) if so, whether any foreign tobacco companies have assured of buying large quantities of tobacco from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(c) whether the terms of the licence insisted that local tobacco be used;

(d) the details of conditionalities imposed or included in the letters of intent granted to foreign tobacco companies to operate and have production centres in India; and

(e) how much tobacco has been assured to be lifted from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISNA SHAI): (a) to (e) Since the announcement of New Industrial Policy, only M|s. R. J. Reynolds Tobacco International, Switzerland have been given approval in April 1993 for setting up a joint venture in India with 50 per cent foreign equity participation amounting to Rs. 23 crores for processing|blending of tobacco and manufacture of 5 billion cigarettes per annum, both for domestic sales and exports at a permissible location in India. The Indian partners of the project are Shri Mahendra K. Modi of M|s Modi Enterprises and Shri Hemant Sonawala, Deputy Chairman, The Hinditron Group, Bombay. The approval given to the company is subject to the condition that it shall make maximum use of local tobacco. It has been noted that of the total estimated requirement over five years only 6 per cent of the requirement of tobacco will be imported. The company has projected net tobacco exports of 10,800 tonnes valued US dollar 74 million over 5 years.

Entry of MNCS in tobacco trade

8220. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have granted licence to two large tobacco multinationals to enter India and manufacture their products;

(b) the names of the two multinationals;

(c) whether these two multinationals have assured that they will lift large stocks of tobacco from Andhra Pradesh farmers;

(d) what are the full details of the terms of licence granted to such foreign tobacco companies;

(e) the structure of their companies proposed in India;

(f) whether they will locate their factories in Andhra Pradesh near the raw material; and

(g) the details of their location and production per year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (g) Since the announcement of New Industrial Policy, only M|s. R. J. Reynolds Tobacco International, Switzerland have been given approval in April, 1993 for setting up a joint venture in India with 50 per cent foreign equity participation amounting to Rs. 23 crores for processing|blending of tobacco and manufacture of 5 billion cigarettes per annum, both for domestic sales and exports at a permissible location in India. The Indian partners of the project are Shri Mahendra K. Modi of M|s. Modi Enterprises and Shri Hemant Sonawala, Deputy Chairman, the Hinditron Group, Bombay. The approval given to the company is subject to the condition that it shall make maximum use of local tobacco. It has been noted that of the total estimated requirement over five years, only 6 per cent of the requirement of tobacco will be imported. The company has projected net tobacco exports of 10,800 tonnes valued US dollar 74 million over 5 years.

Financial assistance to Small Scale Industrial Units

8221. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industrial Units of Himachal Pradesh have been provided financial assistance during the last year;

(b) if so the amount of assistance provided to each Unit alongwith the objectives of such assistance;

(c) whether Government proposed to provide similar financial assistance to Small Scale Units of Andhra Pradesh also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Planning Commission, financial assistance of Rs. 992 lakhs in the form of plan assistance was provided to Himachal Pradesh in the year 1994-95 for Village and Small Industries Sector (VSI). The assistance thus provided is for the promotion of the VSI Sector as a whole whereby the money is spent on the various developmental schemes. Assistance is not given to individual units though the units, if eligible, are free to avail of benefits under the schemes being implemnted.

(c) and (d) As in the case of Himachal Pradesh, similar assistance is given to all the States including Andhra Pradesh. The assistance is based on the proposals submitted by the State Government which in turn depends upon the total quantum of assistance fixed in the meeting of the Chief Minister with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. The assistance so decided for the village and small scale industries sector is for the implementation of the developmental schemes in the sector and assistance is not given to individual units.

Suit against IDBI by HEC officers

8222. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news item pub.